of that country, brought it to the very borders of China. Increasingly Japan was a major factor in Chinese affairs.

Moreover, instead of settling the Manchurian question, the war complicated it. The Three Eastern Provinces continued to be a storm center in China's international relations. Japan, having obtained a foothold there at great cost in blood and treasure, was fully as jealous of its position as Russia had been. It rapidly developed its holdings and complaints were not long in forthcoming that the principle of the open door was being violated. British and Americans were especially outspoken in their criticisms. Moreover, Japanese blocked all the various projects by British and Americans for the construction of railways in Manchuria. The British Government did little, at least partly because of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which was revised and renewed in 1905 and again in 1911. The United States, which after 1905 was moving away from its earlier policy of warm friendship for Japan, was left as the chief hope of official opposition from the West to the extension of Japanese control. The Root-Takahira notes of 1908 seemed for a time amicably to settle Japanese-American differences over Manchuria, but these were revived in 1909 by the proposal of the American Secretary of State, Knox, that the Russian and Japanese railways in Manchuria be neutralized through their purchase, by China, by means of an international loan. The effect of the Knox plan was to drive the Russians and Japanese to an agreement (1910) to maintain the *status quo.*

China, too, attempted by various measures to retain and strengthen her hold in Manchuria. Peking reorganized the administration of the three provinces; planned

railways, and attempted to enlist foreign capital.

International friction over Manchuria, as we shall see, remained a prominent feature of China's international relations. The region was a chronic storm center.

REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL CHANGES! INTERNAL POLITICS, 1901-1931

The humiliating failure of the policy of reaction in the Boxer uprising, and the helplessness of China while Russia and a Westernized Japan fought on her soil at last convinced even the most conservative that the only way to avoid national ruin was re-